

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168064  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05  
L-03 /048 R

DRAFTED BY S/AB:AMB. POPPER  
APPROVED BY S/AB:AMB. POPPER  
-----010874 031810Z /40  
R 031451Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PAN

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH BARLETTA -- CONTAINER PORT  
AND OTHER MATTERS

1. WHILE IN WASHINGTON; FOR IDB DISCUSSIONS LATE LAST WEEK, WE SPOKE WITH PLANNING MINISTER BARLETTA ON A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS, MAINLY EARLY START HE DESIRES TO MAKE ON CONTAINER PORT. BARLETTA HAS BEEN INFORMED OF DIFFICULTIES WE SEE IN STARTING CONSTRUCTION BEFORE TREATY DAY, BUT REMAINS EAGER TO GAIN ONE YEAR'S TIME BY INITIATING WORK DURING NEXT DRY SEASON. HE POINTED OUT THAT PORT WOULD STILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL WELL AFTER TREATY DAY AND STRESSED NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION TO HELP ECONOMY OF COLON.

2. POPPER RAN OVER DIFFICULTIES ONCE MORE, BUT IN ANSWER TO BARLETTA'S PLEA TO DO EVERYTHING WE COULD, PROMISED TO GET TOGETHER A GROUP IN WASHINGTON WHICH WOULD RUN THROUGH ALL THE PROBLEMS AND SEEK TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY AFFIRMALIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIVE ACTION WAS POSSIBLE. STRESSED THAT HE COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCES IN THIS REGARD.

3. BARLETTA IS EAGER TO CONCLUDE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON ECONOMIC PACKAGE, AS SOON AS WE AGREE ON THE TEXT. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY CONVERSATIONS BY EX-IM BANK PRESIDENT MOORE, WHICH HE THOUGHT MIGHT LEAD TO PERHAPS \$40 MILLION

IN COMMITMENTS OF VARIOUS KINDS DURING FIRST YEAR. WAS  
SOMEWHAT LESS SANGUINE ABOUT OPIC EXERCISE, BECAUSE OF  
CURRENT HIGH MONEY MARKET RATES.

4. AS INCIDENTAL INTELLIGENCE, BARLETTA SAID HE HAD  
DELIVERED A MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER, FROM GENERAL  
TORRIJOS (NATURE UNSPECIFIED). HE ALSO STATED THAT HE  
EXPECTS PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY TO BE FORMALLY SET BY GOP  
DURING MONTH OF JULY.

VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE168064  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AMB. POPPER  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780274-0380  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 60ca7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2125612  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONVERSATION WITH BARLETTA -- CONTAINER PORT AND OTHER MATTERS  
**TAGS:** EWWT, ECRE, EAID, PN, US, (BARLETTA, NICOLAS ARDITO)  
**To:** PANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014